

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A specimen conveyance holder moving system comprising:

5 a plurality of belt conveyors which are provided to allow specimen conveyance holders to be conveyed along a pair of parallel guide rails and which have specific areas arranged in parallel to each other;

holder moving areas which are provided in respective specific areas of at least two of the belt conveyors and from which corresponding portions including at least the guide rails are removed;

10 a holder holding mechanism which is detachably set in the holder moving areas and which has a pair of parallel guide rail pieces at a lower end, the guide rail pieces serving as an alternative to the removed guide rails;

20 a moving mechanism by which the holder holding mechanism is hung and which moves the holder holding mechanism between the belt conveyors and detaches the holder holding mechanism from the holder moving areas; and

a controller which drives the moving mechanism in association with a conveyance of the specimen conveyance holders.

25 2. A specimen conveyance holder moving system comprising:

a plurality of belt conveyors which are provided

to allow specimen conveyance holders to be conveyed along a pair of parallel guide rails and which have specific areas arranged in parallel to each other;

holder moving areas which are provided in
5 respective specific areas of at least two of the belt conveyors such that corresponding portions including at least the guide rails escape from a conveyance path of each of the belt conveyors when the specimen conveyance holders are moved;

10 a holder holding mechanism which is detachably set in the holder moving areas and which has a pair of parallel guide rail pieces at a lower end, the guide rail pieces serving as an alternative to the removed guide rails;

15 a moving mechanism by which the holder holding mechanism is hung and which moves the holder holding mechanism between the belt conveyors and detaches the holder holding mechanism from the holder moving areas; and

20 a controller which drives the moving mechanism in association with a conveyance of the specimen conveyance holders.

3. The specimen conveyance holder moving system according to claim 1, further comprising a shutter
25 which closes a carry-out port of the holder holding mechanism such that the specimen conveyance holders carried into the holder holding mechanism remain in the

holder holding mechanism when the holder holding mechanism is set in the holder moving area.

- 5 4. The specimen conveyance holder moving system according to claim 2, further comprising a shutter which closes a carry-out port of the holder holding mechanism such that the specimen conveyance holders carried into the holder holding mechanism remain in the holder holding mechanism when the holder holding mechanism is set in the holder moving area.